

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 130638Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4282

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0926

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UN LT

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF DRV DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN IN AFRICA

REF : STATE 171607

1. GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO IS NOT LIKELY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO CHANGE FROM ITS CONSISTENT WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT U.S. POSITION AGAINST RECOGNITION OF PRG AND AGAINST ITS MEMBERSHIP OR ATTENDANCE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR CONFERENCES. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS ATTITUDE WAS GOL INSTRUCTION TO ITS DELEGATION TO LOS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT U.S. POSITION ON ISSUE IF IT AROSE.

2. GOL ATTITUDE IS FUNCTION OF ITS GENUINE APPRECIATION FOR U.S. POLITICAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, ITS OWN ANTI-COMMUNISM, ITS RELATIVE LACK OF INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND ITS INSULATION FROM DIRECT PRESSURES BY DRV/PRG AND ITS FRIENDS. OBJECTIVE FACTS OF CASE ARE PROBABLY LESS IMPORTANT BUT FACTUAL ARGUMENTS SUPPLIED BY DEPT ARE NEVERTHELESS USEFUL IN APPROACHING GOL.

3. PRINCIPAL COUNTERVAILING INFLUENCES ON GOL ARE ITS STRONG
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DESIRE FOR WARM RELATIONS WITH OAU COUNTRIES, ITS MEMBERSHIP

IN SO-CALLED NONALIGNED BLOC, AND ITS AUTOMATIC SYMPATHY TO CAUSES WHICH SUCCEED IN IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS ANTI-COLONIAL. IN THE LONG RUN, IT IS POSSIBLE THESE FACTORS COULD LEAD TO LESSENING OF GOL SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS ON ISSUES SUCH AS DRV/PRG, GRUNK, AND NORTH KOREAN CREDENTIALS, BUT FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT GOL WILL CONTINUE TO BE RELIABLE FRIEND IN THESE AREAS.

4. SINCE GOL'S STANCE ON PRG ISSUE IS LARGELY A RESULT OF IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S., IT IS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION AVAILABLE TO RVN IN BILATERAL SPHERE WHICH MIGHT IMPROVE ITS POSITION. RATHER, THE U.S. CAN CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS CLAIM TO GOL SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE BY BEING RESPONSIVE TO LESOTHO'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND SYMPATHETIC TO ITS VULNERABILITY WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA; BY KEEPING IN MIND THAT LESOTHO IS SENSITIVE TO U.S. VOTES IN THE U.N. ON AFRICAN ISSUES AND BY BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE; AND BY SEEKING TO PREVENT DRV/PRG FROM SUCCEEDING IN IDENTIFYING ITS CAUSE WITH CAUSE OF AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE AND ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS.
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